

On the whole, examination with finger is more valuable than with the speculum, but the speculum is useful in detecting a bleeding polypus, which in an irregular cervix may quite easily escape detection on digital examination. In doubtful cases there should be no hesitation in excising a portion for microscopic examination—it is not often necessary, but is occasionally of great value. “In a statistical study of matter obtained in Graves’s clinic, Pemberton and Smith found that recourse to the microscope was necessary for the establishment of a diagnosis in only 2.39 per cent. of their cases of cancer of the cervix”—(Curtis).

A special word of warning is necessary as regards cancer of the endocervix. Here the portio vaginalis may appear quite smooth, but is usually increased in size. *Bimanual* examination will provoke a discharge and blood from the cervical canal; and in the case of a multipara there is usually no difficulty in passing a small loop of a curette into the cervical canal and withdrawing a fragment for examination. These cases can be missed, however, and it is of great importance that they should not, because the parametrium and regional lymph-glands are attacked earlier in this type of the disease than in cancer affecting the vaginal portion of the cervix.

REVIEW

THE PHYSICAL MECHANISM OF THE HUMAN MIND. By A. G. Douglas, M.B., B.Ch. 1932. Edinburgh : E. & S. Livingstone. pp. 251 + ix ; figures 24. Price 15s. net.

It has been said that psychology has been made an unnecessarily difficult subject by so much introduction of what might be called “psychological jargon,” and in the opening chapter of this book the author goes a step further and says : “There is remarkable unanimity of opinion that psychology has so far failed to attain the status of a science.” Whether one agrees or disagrees with either of these two statements, opinion must be unanimous that a thorough understanding of the physiological reactions of the central nervous system is essential before one begins to build theories either physiological or psychological. With such an object in view, no better book could be chosen for study than this well-arranged volume by Dr. Douglas. It begins with an introductory chapter on mind and matter, then passes to a detailed description of the various forms of nerve-cells, and to a lucid account of the principles of nerve-action. Psychoneural correlation is then discussed, the author taking the mind of a child for investigation to illustrate the points raised. A clear account is then given of primitive reactions, conditioned reflexes, space-time perception, habit, instinct, emotion, etc., and concludes with a chapter on the limitation of mind. The book as a whole is well written; it is illustrated by numerous well-chosen diagrams, and may be recommended to any medical man interested in this important subject.